

ILLINOIS
**Department
on Aging**

Network **NEWS**

Spring 2002

Nutrition Program celebrates 30 years

Calling it one of the most successful community-based programs for seniors in America, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, in March, helped launch the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program.

"If the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program was a restaurant, the sign out front would say, 'Six billion served,'" Secretary Thompson said. "For 30 years, this program not only has provided nutritious, healthy meals to older Americans, but also has touched their lives by linking them to community services that allow them to remain independent."

Through a strong national partnership with state and Area Agencies on Aging, tribal organizations, nutrition service providers, thousands of dedicated volunteers, caregivers and the private sector, the program also provides nutrition screening, education and counseling, and a vast array of other supportive and health services. It supports federal, state and local efforts to fight chronic health conditions

Nutrition on page 4 ➤

Governor Ryan announces SeniorCare prescription program

**Builds on Circuit Breaker Program
to extend relief to more seniors**



Governor George H. Ryan unveiled Illinois SeniorCare at the Capitol in January. Mike O'Donnell, president of the Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber participated in the event.

Governor George H. Ryan, in January, detailed an innovative prescription assistance program, Illinois SeniorCare, which was approved by President Bush and the United States Department of Health and Human Services as a new national model for providing assistance for all prescription medication to low-income seniors.

"I want to commend President Bush and Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson for working with us to

provide relief to our senior citizens. SeniorCare is an innovative program that dramatically expands our continuing efforts to make prescription medication affordable for low-income seniors," said Governor Ryan. "This program is the first of its kind across the nation due in large part to the success we have had with the state's Circuit Breaker program. We hope other states will join us so that all

SeniorCare on page 4 ➤

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are facing one of the most challenging budget years our state has faced since the early 1990s. Earlier this year, Governor Ryan presented a plan to maintain critical services while working toward economic recovery.

These times are not easy for any of us, of course. However, services for vulnerable older people are faring far better than some areas of the state budget. That says a great deal about the strength of the Aging Network, the importance of our mission, and our record of fiscal prudence and accountability.

The Governor has proposed a \$320.8 million budget for the Illinois Department on Aging for FY 2003, which represents over \$24 million more than our current year's appropriation. This will allow us to preserve and protect the programs that are imperative for our most vulnerable elderly and the families caring for them.

The budget also includes something for which we have been fighting vigilantly for the past few years — and that's a \$1-an-hour increase for agencies providing homemaker services. If the Governor's budget is approved, thousands of homemakers in the Community Care Program will finally get a meaningful wage increase, which will help us retain them and recruit others.

Other exciting news is that through Governor Ryan's leadership, Illinois will be the first state to launch the innovative SeniorCare Program beginning this June. Illinois is expected to receive \$100 million in federal Medicaid dollars to extend prescription drug coverage to some 368,000 seniors. And, these seniors will have access to a broad range of medications. (See the story on the front page)



I have always been able to count on you for your help, cooperation and understanding. I need you to pull together with me during these tough economic times as we continue to provide the very best services we can.

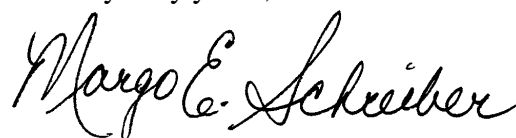
As your Director, I am extremely passionate

about our programs and services, and I am particularly thankful that this budget is not one that will bring us down.

Indeed, the Illinois Department on Aging's budget speaks well about the accountability of our entire Network, reinforces the confidence that the state has in us, and validates the positive difference we are making in countless lives throughout Illinois.

I thank you again for all your help. I need all of you to understand that the budget reflects confidence in all you have done, and we need to support the Governor's budget. Let's work *together* to make 2003 a year of recovery for our nation and our state, for our clients and caregivers, and for each and every one of us.

Very truly yours,



Margo E. Schreiber, Director
Illinois Department on Aging

Legislative Update

**Check the Department on Aging
Web site for the latest
legislative updates:
www.state.il.us/aging/legis.htm**

Heinz Family Philanthropies is producing a series of Facts About cards designed to provide the public with concise, accurate and up-to-date information on domestic policy issues. The first card is entitled **"Facts About: Prescription Drugs and Seniors."**

For more information or to obtain copies of the card, contact Jeffrey Lewis, Director of Philanthropies at 202-393-1244 or via e-mail at jlewis@heinz.org. ☘



Caregiver Support Updates

Demo project underway at Shawnee Alliance helping caregivers of adult children with disabilities

The Illinois Department on Aging has expanded services in southern Illinois to include a caregiver support project aimed at helping elderly caregivers of adult children with developmental disabilities.

The project has been started at Shawnee Alliance for Seniors in Carterville and will be expanded to other parts of the state next year. Shawnee Alliance for Seniors, a Shawnee Health Service Project, provides services in the lower thirteen counties of the state.

The project aims to help with long term planning should an elderly caregiver predecease an adult child or become unable to provide the level of care needed. Objectives also include educating families on community-based services and setting up advisory council and peer support groups.

Funding for the Illinois Senior Caregivers of Adult Children with Disabilities Project is provided through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging. The Illinois Department of Human Services, the Council for the Developmentally Disabled, and researchers at the University of

Illinois, Chicago, are also collaborating with local service providers in southern Illinois.

The Illinois Senior Caregivers of Adult Children with Disabilities Project is for caregivers age 60 or older caring for developmentally disabled adults age 19 and older.

"We want family caregivers to know that we are here to help them in their efforts to care for their developmentally disabled family member and have services and information which can promote independence now and in the future," said Carol Aronson, Director of Shawnee Alliance for Seniors.

For more information, call Linda Sadler, Program Coordinator, at 618-985-8322 or 1-800-642-7773, or the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY).

Mather LifeWays receives grant to help caregivers

Mather LifeWays, a non-profit organization in Evanston, has received a three-year grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging to test an innovative training program to enable family caregivers to better care for themselves by improving their self-confidence and problem solving skills.

The Suburban and Northeastern Illinois Area Agencies on Aging are cooperating in this effort. Professionals from healthcare and social service organizations have been trained as leaders to teach family caregivers a set of self-care skills through a six-part course titled "Powerful Tools for Caregivers."

Classes are now being held at various times and locations in Cook County and collar counties. Any family member who cares for a relative at home, in a care facility or at a long distance is welcome to participate. For more information, call Mather InfoPlus at 1-888-600-2560. All class schedules and locations can be found at www.matherlifeways.com.

New brochures now available!

Copies of the Illinois Caregiver Support Program and the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program brochures can be obtained by calling your local Area Agency on Aging or the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine, 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY).



➤ **Nutrition** *continued* . . .

among the elderly such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The program effectively addresses weight management issues such as malnutrition and obesity, and helps to manage depression that affects millions of older persons.

In Illinois, nutrition services are funded through the Illinois Department on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging and provided through local community agencies across the state.

"The program gets to the heart of a senior's most basic need — the need to eat well on a regular basis," said Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber. "This is fundamental to every other effort to improve their quality of life."

Schreiber said the meal programs are cost-effective by allowing older people to remain



in their own homes and avoid much more costly nursing home care.

She said in Fiscal Year 2002, the Illinois Department on Aging expects to serve over 45,000 seniors with over 7.4 million home-delivered meals and over 86,000 seniors with 3.5 million congregate meals served at community sites including senior centers, senior housing facilities and community buildings. ✚

➤ **SeniorCare** *continued* . . .

seniors can receive the assistance they need to care for their health."

"Governor George Ryan deserves credit for his efforts to improve access to affordable prescription drugs for Illinois seniors," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said. "Illinois now can use federal Medicaid dollars to extend prescription drug coverage to some 368,000 seniors."

"SeniorCare will simplify seniors' lives, diminish their worries, and help keep them independent and active," said Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo Schreiber. "If seniors take the medications they need, they are less likely to go to the hospital or nursing home. SeniorCare represents this difference."

The proposed program will begin June 1, 2002. It is modeled on the state's existing Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance program, administered by the Illinois Department of Revenue and promoted by the Illinois Department on Aging.

SeniorCare will be administered by the Illinois Department of Public Aid in collaboration with the Departments of Revenue and Aging.

Once enrolled, an individual would remain eligible for 12 months, and participants will have similar cost-sharing responsibilities. The current Illinois Circuit Breaker program will continue to serve eligible seniors earning between 200 and 250 percent of the federal poverty level, as well as disabled persons.



Health Corner

National Senior Health and Fitness Day Set for May 29th

Health and Fitness Day, the nation's largest older adult health promotion event, is an ideal way to celebrate Older Americans Month. More than 150,000 seniors and 1,500 organizations participate in the day to show the importance of keeping healthy and fit as people age.

For a complete Senior Day registration packet, call Tina Godin at 1-800-828-8225 or e-mail her at finessday@aol.com.

“The state’s innovative approach pools federal and state Medicaid dollars to help those seniors most in need. We also will make it easier financially and administratively for other states to quickly follow Illinois’ lead,” Secretary Thompson added.

Governor Ryan first presented his concept for this innovative prescription drug plan to Secretary Tommy Thompson during a meeting in April 2001 in Chicago. The proposal had been under preliminary review by the federal government since Illinois submitted its plan to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on July 31, 2001.

The new program will provide a broad pharmaceutical benefit to eligible low-income Illinois seniors age 65 and older. They can enroll in SeniorCare if they are single and have income no more than \$17,720. Couples can have an income of no more than \$23,880 a year.

For participants who are single with an income of no more than \$8,859 a year or couples who have an income of no more than \$11,939 a year, SeniorCare will pay up to \$1,750 per year at no cost. After that, participants pay 20 percent of the cost of each prescription.

If a participant is single and has

Highlights of SeniorCare

- Eligibility level (age 65 and over, 200% of federal poverty level)
- Coverage for up to 370,000 seniors
- Seniors already enrolled in the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program who are below 200 percent of federal poverty level will be automatically enrolled in Illinois SeniorCare
- Pays for over 90 percent of average eligible senior’s drug cost
- No asset test or “spend down” requirements, as with traditional Medicaid.

For an application, call the Illinois Department of Revenue’s Forms Order Line at 1-800-356-6302 or log onto www.ILtax.com and click on the button for Circuit Breaker/Rx. Applications and information may also be obtained by calling the Illinois Department on Aging’s Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY) or the Health Benefits Hotline at 1-800-226-0768 (TTY, 1-877-204-1012). ✽

an income between \$8,860 and \$17,720 a year, or between \$11,940 and \$23,880 for a couple, then each pays \$1 for each generic and \$4 for each name-brand prescription. After this reaches \$1,750 per person in SeniorCare benefits, these participants pay \$1 for generic and \$4 per brand-name prescription plus 20 percent of the cost for each prescription. There is no annual enrollment fee.

“Because the new program will cover such a broad range of drugs, it will benefit significantly more seniors,” Governor Ryan added. “The increased cost of the program will be offset by federal

matching funds, cost-sharing features and drug manufacturer rebates paid to the state.”

By providing seniors with affordable prescription drugs, savings will also be achieved by helping prevent costly institutional Medicaid care.

SeniorCare covers most prescription drugs and many over-the-counter drugs if a doctor prescribes them.

“This program will provide a significant benefit for seniors taking prescription drugs,” said Public Aid Director Jackie Garner. “For example, if a senior is taking three drugs, which cost \$50 per prescription per month, the total annual cost is \$1,800. Under SeniorCare, that same person would save about \$1,700 a year.”

To encourage seniors to keep any private insurance coverage for prescription drugs, the program will allow individuals the option of receiving monthly rebate checks to help cover out-of-pocket expenses, including premiums, deductibles and co-payments for pharmaceuticals. ✽

There are many new prescription assistance programs.

Some are national, some are state, some are public and some are private. For questions or an application, contact:

Novartis Care Card at 1-866-974-CARE or visit www.novartis.com/carecard.

GlaxoSmithKline Senior Drug Discount Card (also known as “the Orange Card”) at 1-888-Orange-6 or visit www.glaxosmithkline.com.

Pfizer Share Card at 1-800-717-6005 or visit www.pfizerforliving.com.

LillyAnswers at 1-877-RX-LILLY or visit www.newsroom.lilly.com.

Illinois moves from 49th to 1st in “Digital State” rankings



Illinois Department on Aging staff showcase the Department's digital advances at a celebration at the State Capitol in February. Pictured from left to right are Bernie Clancy, Chief of the Bureau of Information Services, Jill Pence, Becky Hargett, Maureen Squires, Director Margo Schreiber, Jan Costello, Anne Stewart-Reed and Larry Kraus.

Illinois' use of digital technology to make government more accessible and to improve service has been ranked the best in the nation, according to a major national survey conducted by The Progress & Freedom Foundation and the Center

for Digital Government.

Illinois tied with Kansas for the first place rank in the 2001 digital state survey. In 2000 Illinois ranked fourth in the nation and was voted “most improved” because in the 1998 survey, Illinois ranked 49th.

Since that rating, Governor George H. Ryan created the Illinois Technology Office to provide Illinoisans with access to a variety of state services online or by using other digital technology.

The state's high ranking was featured in a celebration in February at the Illinois State Capitol, and state agencies showcased how individuals can now go online to take college or high school courses, pay taxes, renew occupational licenses or check road construction. The Illinois Department on Aging — the first state agency to have a “digital signature” in operation — showed the public the benefits of the technology.

The Department's contracted agencies, authorized to use a digital signature, can use the Internet to check program and service information about the seniors they serve through the Department's Community Care Program. The technology provides for confidentiality. ✽

Hall of Fame applications available

The Illinois Department on Aging is seeking nominations for the 2002 Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame, which was established by the Illinois General Assembly in 1994 to honor older adults who excel in one of four separate areas: Community Service; Education; Performance and/or Graphic Arts; and the Labor Force. Thus far, fifty-one individuals have been inducted.

Candidates will be inducted into the 2002 Hall of Fame on Senior Day at the Illinois State Fair on August 12, 2002, at 11 a.m. in the Illinois Building Auditorium.

Eligibility is based on the

nominee's past and present accomplishments in the category of choice. The candidate must be age 65 or older and a current Illinois citizen or former citizen who has lived in Illinois the majority of his or her life. Posthumous nominees will also be considered.

Nomination forms are available from the Illinois Department on Aging and the Area Agencies on Aging. They must be completed and postmarked or faxed to the Department by May 1, 2002, to be considered. Call the Department's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY) for nomination forms or additional information. ✽

The Illinois Department on Aging is seeking new acts that can be enjoyed by fairgoers in the Illinois Building's Auditorium during the Illinois State Fair August 8-19, 2002, in Springfield. Fairgoers of all ages enjoy visiting the building and viewing anything from singing and dancing to novelty acts or other entertainment. For more information, call Cathy Houghtby at the Illinois Department on Aging at 217-785-3390 or call the Department's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY).

National Silver Haired Congress meets in Washington, D. C.

The National Silver Haired Congress, which is composed of representatives and senators age 60 and older from over 30 states, approved 29 resolutions at its Sixth Annual Session in March in Washington, D.C.

The number one resolution urges the U.S. Congress to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare. The second resolution recommends requiring medical schools receiving federal funds to include the study of geriatrics in course work. Ranked third was a resolution urging Congress to retain Social Security as a guaranteed benefit and rejecting any privatization proposals.

Jeanne Tippet, Illinois Silver Haired Representative, was re-elected as Chair of the non-partisan, grassroots model legislature established in 1994. Tippet urged delegates to continue to support our nation in crisis and to keep advocating for the elderly by promoting top priorities.

In addition to Tippet, other Illinois participants in the Silver Haired Congress were: **Ginnie Boyle** of Naperville, **Rose Gates** of Danville, **Helen Heyrman** of Evanston, and former Illinois Department on Aging Director **Maralee Lindley** of Springfield. Boyle was elected Treasurer; Gates was appointed National Fundraising Chair, Heyrman was re-elected Illinois Chair, and Lindley will serve on the National Advisory Council.

Illinois attendees were **Identa Austin** of Yorkville, **Dr. Ed DuVivier** of Godfrey, **Rose Gates** of Danville, **Don Heyrman** of Evanston, **Ruth Hill** of O'Fallon, **Ruth Lake** of Oak Park, **Robert Lautzenhiser** of Princeton, **Anna Marie McCall** of Des Plaines, **Aldo F. Pedros** of Chicago, **Diane Saunders** of Downers Grove, **Harole Scholle** of Naperville, and **Shirley Swanson** of Winfield. ✧

National Silver Haired Congress Sixth Session Resolutions in Priority Order

1. Providing a Prescription Drug Benefit through Medicare
2. Geriatrics Medical Education
3. Retain Social Security as a Guaranteed Benefit
(sponsored by Helen Heyrman)
4. Alzheimer's Victims and Caregivers
5. Long Term Home Care
6. Protect Social Security and Medicare Funds
7. National Background Check and Registry for Caregivers
8. Medicare Prescription Drugs
9. Tax Incentives for Long Term Care Insurance
10. Social Security Payment Related to Surviving Spouse

Last fall, a series of articles distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services and coordinated by the Partnership in Caring appeared in newspapers across the country. The series, titled "**Finding our Way: Living and Dying in America**" is a look at end of life and its surrounding issues. Reprints of the series can now be ordered at www.findingourway.net.

Thurston joins Illinois Council on Aging

Governor George H. Ryan has appointed Charlie A. Thurston as a new member of the Illinois Council on Aging. Thurston, of Winfield, will fill the position formerly held by James Walsh of Evanston. He was appointed to a term to expire in January 2005.

The Illinois Council on Aging makes recommendations to the Illinois Department on Aging, the Governor and the Illinois General Assembly regarding programs and services for older Illinoisans.

Members who were recently reappointed to the Council are **Ralph Cianchetti** of Highland Park, **Charles A. Crowder** of Flora, **Donna Day** of Peoria, **Vasil Eftimoff** of Granite City, **Al Galvan** of Lombard, **Ronald Jaeger** of Peoria, **Dr. Armen Z. Mesrobian** of Lake Villa, **William Meyer** of Jacksonville, **Marc R. Miller** of Champaign, **Daniel Moore** of Decatur and **Patricia Taylor** of Northbrook. ✧

Unique Achievement Awards help celebrate Nutrition Programs

Winners of the Governor's Awards for Unique Achievement will be honored by the Illinois Department on Aging during Older Americans Month at a ceremony May 1, 2002, at the Executive Mansion in Springfield.

"Unique Achievers" are listed alphabetically by hometown:

Chicago – **Open Kitchens** was nominated by the Chicago Department on Aging. The vendor has delivered nutritious meals to homebound seniors since the mid-1980s. It currently serves two meals daily to more than 5,000 seniors in Chicago each weekday.

Crawford County – **Frances Cummins** was nominated by Southeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Cummins has volunteered for area senior nutrition programs for over 20 years.

Decatur – **Louise Gee** was nominated by East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Gee has been a volunteer with Meals-on-Wheels since 1967, when the program started under the auspices of the Visiting Nurse Association of Macon County.

Dix – **Leo Pijut** was nominated by Midland Area Agency on Aging. After retiring, Pijut became active with many community organizations. He is a member of the Epworth United Methodist Church, where he has volunteered one day each week for the past ten years to help with home-delivered meals. He has also been a regular volunteer for the Sunshine Center congregate meals for the past nine years.

Freeport – **NICAA Senior Citizens' Services** and **Director Rose Taylor** were nominated by Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Taylor has been with the

nutrition program for 28 years. She began her service as an outreach worker and initiated the nutrition program.

Henry – **Rev. Walter Breuning** was nominated by Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Father Breuning has been dedicated to the Henry Senior Citizens Nutrition Site Program since it started in 1974. He continues to prepare meals, serve meals and plan menus.

Herrick – **Jessie Landers**, 95, was nominated by East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Landers calls the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program her "second family" and has participated in the group nutrition program for 28 years.

Kane, Kendall and McHenry Counties – **The Salvation Army Golden Diners Nutrition Program** was nominated by Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging. The program began in 1974 and currently has 21 sites throughout Kane, Kendall and McHenry Counties. The Golden Diners provide more than 1,100 meals each weekday, with 60 percent being home-delivered meals.

Kewanee – **Virginia Nelson** was nominated by Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging. She has been with the Henry County Senior Citizens Center for 28 years and is now Director. The center has grown over the years to serve the entire county.

Metropolis – **Frieda Koch** was nominated by the Egyptian Area Agency on Aging. Koch started her employment with Happy Hearts Senior Center as an assistant cook in 1977, at the age of 60. Years later, she still gets to work at 6:30 a.m. She loves to cook and has trained many cooks at the center.

Quincy – **Frances and George Broemmer** were nominated by West Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging. The Broemmers have volunteered with Blessing Hospital; Blessing Hospital Home Care; Share; Adams County Council for Senior Citizens, Meals Plus; Quincy Senior Center; RSVP; Adult Day Care; senior dances; Senior Center Store and more.

Schaumburg – **Kiran Chaturvedi** was nominated by the Suburban Area Agency on Aging. Chaturvedi began her employment with Community Nutrition Network in 1987 as a Food Service Aide and became Nutrition Site Manager in 1990. Chaturvedi has developed partnerships with villages, businesses and other community organizations in the area to help the senior and disabled population.

Springfield – **Marcia Brown** was nominated by Project LIFE Area Agency on Aging. Brown began volunteering at Project LIFE in 1994 and recruited many volunteers to deliver meals to homebound seniors each weekday.

Trenton – **Henry Kasson** and **Mel Barrett** were nominated by Southwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Last year, it looked as though the Trenton Nutrition Center would close. Kasson and Barrett were able to save the center by getting the city of Trenton to operate the site with assistance from the Area Agency. ✧



It's Intergenerational

Intergenerational Week celebration

The Illinois Department on Aging and the Illinois Association of Park Districts have formed a partnership to celebrate Intergenerational Week May 19-25, 2002.

"Intergenerational activities result in stronger individuals who become more connected to their communities," said Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo Schreiber. "The majority of seniors in Illinois are extremely active and eager to participate in activities with youth."

"During Intergenerational Week, a multitude of events will be sponsored by park districts and senior groups throughout the state," Schreiber said.

"Illinois Park Districts have been in the forefront in offering a large array of activities and instructional classes specifically targeted to the growing senior population," said Ted Flickinger, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Park Districts. "Illinois park districts continually research the recreational and leisure needs of seniors in order to develop quality programs and activities."

Intergenerational Dialogue set for June 5th

The Illinois Department on Aging, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois Community College Board, will co-sponsor an Intergenerational Dialogue to explore ways to minimize tobacco use.

Representatives from five generations, who will be based at seven locations around the state, will discuss tobacco use and prevention strategies. The Dialogue teleconference will kick off the Illinois Department of Public Health's 2002 Tobacco Prevention Conference, "Making Tobacco History: Illinois 2002 Conference," to be held June 5 - 6, 2002, at the **Naperville** Holiday Inn. In addition to the Naperville site, other Dialogue locations will include: **Rockford** (Rock Valley College), **Quincy** (John Wood Community College), **Champaign** (Parkland College), **Carterville** (John A. Logan College), **Belleville** (Southwestern Illinois College), **Moline** (Black Hawk College).

To help organizations celebrate Intergenerational Week 2002, a copy of the proclamation signed by the Governor, a tool kit with ideas and certificates to honor volunteers are available by calling the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TTY). ☼

Technology is improving life for disabled persons.

■ A portable device from DynaVox Systems of Pittsburgh now **gives a voice to those who can't talk**. The person picks words, phrases or letters to compose a message, and the machine talks in one of 10 synthesized voices.

■ Web Trek Connect, from AbleLink Technologies of Colorado Springs, **permits those with retardation or other cognitive disabilities to use the Internet**. Typed e-mails can be read aloud when the recipient clicks on the sender's picture. It also lets the user compose verbal e-mails and replies by following pictures on the screen.

For more information visit www.dynavoxsys.com or www.ablelinktech.com.

Senior Medicare Patrol Seeks Volunteers

The Senior Medicare Patrol is a group of specially trained people who provide education and information about Medicare and Medicaid to individuals and groups in their communities. This group has helped thousands of seniors, and rooted out fraud and abuse that harms these valuable healthcare programs.

Volunteers assist area seniors by conducting presentations, doing research, counseling individuals, and assisting with clerical follow-up. For more information on the program or how to become a volunteer in the Chicago area, call the Suburban Area Agency on Aging at 708-383-0258. ☼

Trainings & Special Events

May is **Older Americans Month**

This year's theme is "America: A Community for All Ages"

(Poster now available on the Web, see back page.)

May 1: Springfield; **Governor's Awards for Unique Achievement;** IL Dept. on Aging, IL Area Agencies on Aging; Cathy Houghtby, 217-785-3390.

May 1: Tinley Park; **29:** Chicago; **Taking Charge: Responding to Abuse, Neglect and Financial Exploitation for Persons with Disabilities;** Inst. on Disability & Human Development, UIC; 312-413-1535.

May 1-3: Champaign; **Ombudsman Quarterly Meeting;** IL Dept. on Aging; Neyna Johnson, 217-785-3140.

Illinois Department on Aging
in cooperation with
Illinois Departments of Revenue,
Public Aid, Human Services
and Insurance
present

Illinois SeniorCare

May 2: IL Dept. of Agriculture,
Springfield

May 6: Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon

May 9: Ramada Suites, Rockford

May 16: Inn of Chicago, Chicago

For more information, call
Matt Wescott at 217-785-3357

May 8: Springfield; **Senior Celebration;** Cathy Houghtby, 217-785-3390.

May 8: Rockford; **9:** Moline; **10:** Quincy; **Pioneering Approaches to Long Term Care: Implementing Strategies & Practices;** IL Dept. on Aging, IL Dept. of Public Health; Paula Connell, 1-800-252-9027.

May 9-10: Naperville; **Volunteerism: The American Way;** IL Conf. on Volunteers Admin.; Carol Jones, 312-814-8454; www.icova.org.

May 13-17: National Senior Center Week

May 15: Springfield; **17:** Mt. Vernon; **31:** Chicago; **Supporting a Racially Diverse and Immigrant Workforce;** Inst. on Disability & Human Development, UIC; 312-413-1535.

May 16-17: Springfield; **IL Family Literacy Conf.;** IL Dept. on Aging, IL Literacy Resource Dev. Ctr.; 217-355-6068.

May 19-25: Intergenerational Programs Week

May 20-21: Springfield; **7th An. Conf. on Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias;** IL Dept. on Aging; SIU School of Medicine, Ctr. for Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders; Alzheimer's Assoc., Land of Lincoln Chapter; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.

May 24: Oakbrook; **Workers on Aging Conf.;** Northeastern IL Area Agency on Aging; Suburban Area Agency on Aging; Deborah Janiszewski, 708-383-0258.

May 29: National Senior Health & Fitness Day; 800-828-8225.

Jun 2-6: Salt Lake City, Utah; **Alliance of Information & Referral System Conference;** 503-257-3537.

Jun 4: Ramada Suites and Conference Center, Rockford; **Taking Charge: Responding to Abuse, Neglect and Financial Exploitation for Persons with Disabilities;** Inst. on Disability & Human Development, UIC; 312-413-1535.

Jun 5: Multiple Sites; **Intergenerational Dialogue;** IL Depts. on Aging & Public Health; Aaron Wayne, 217-558-4165.

May 15: Predatory Lending Training; with Carolyn Rodus, J.D., M.A., College of Notre Dame, Maryland;

May 16: Nursing Home Law Training; with Sally Hurme, Consumer Protection Group, AARP; and Tom James, IL Asst. Attorney General;

9 to 4:45; Concordia University, River Forest;

No fee. First come, first served; limited to 50 people. To register, call Suburban Area Agency on Aging, 708-524-0870.

Jun 5-6: Naperville; **Making Tobacco History: Illinois 2002 Conference;** IL Dept. of Public Health; Lisa Kienzle, 217-793-7353 x 107.

Jun 6: Rockford; **13:** Tinley Park; **Supporting a Racially Diverse and Immigrant Workforce;** Inst. on Disability & Human Development, UIC; 312-413-1535.

Jun 10: Mt. Vernon; **18:** Springfield; **26:** Chicago; **Caregiver Resource Centers: Best Practices for Information and Assistance;** IL Dept. on Aging; Kathy Jump, 217-558-6706.

Jun 15: Countryside; **Passenger Assistance, Defense Driving or Emergency Procedures;** IL Dept. on Aging and IL Rural Transit Assist. Ctr.; Kathy Jump, 217-558-6706.

Jun 20: Springfield; **26:** Chicago; **27:** Countryside; **102 Ways to Energize Yourself and Others;** IL Dept. on Aging; John Lazell, 217-785-4225.

Jul 10-12: Grafton; **Illinois AIRS (Alliance of Information and Referral Systems, Inc);** Heart of Illinois United Way; 800-338-4636.

Jul 23-25: Chicago; **16th An. Elder Rights Conference;** IL Dept. on Aging; Kathy Jump, 217-558-6706.

Aug 9-18: Springfield; **Illinois State Fair.**

Aug 12: Illinois Building, Springfield; **Illinois Senior Hall of Fame Awards;** Walgreens; Cathy Houghtby, 217-785-3390.

Aug 24-Sep 2: DuQuoin; **DuQuoin State Fair.**

Sep 4-5: Oakbrook Terrace; **7th An. Senior Lifestyle Expo;** NE IL Area Agency on Aging; Cathy Houghtby, 217-785-3390.

Sep 11-13: Champaign; **Ombudsman Quarterly Meeting;** IL Dept. on Aging; Neyna Johnson, 217-785-3140.

Sep 19: Quad Cities; **Western IL AAA An. Conference;** Western IL Area Agency on Aging; 309-793-6800; www.wiaaa.org.

Sep 22-28: National Employ The Older Worker Week.

Sep 24-25: Rend Lake Resort;

Sep 26-27: Decatur; **19th An. Case Mgmt. Conf.;** IL Dept. on Aging; IL Council of Case Coord. Units; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.

Oct 2-3: Oakbrook Terrace; **Oct 8-9:** Starved Rock Lodge; **Oct 10-11:** Starved Rock Lodge; **19th An. Case Mgmt. Conf.;** IL Dept. on Aging; IL Council of Case Coord. Units; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.

Oct 6-12: Residents' Rights Week; **9: Long Term Care Ombudsman Day**

Oct 12-14: Washington, D.C.; **3rd Inter'l. Conf. on Family Care;** Nat. Alliance for Caregiving, Pfizer, Ortho Biotech, AXA Found.; 301-718-8444.

Oct 15-16: Decatur; **6th An. Seminar for IL Sr. Ctrs.;** IL Dept. on Aging, Assoc. of IL Sr. Ctrs., IL Assoc. of Park Districts; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.

Nov: National Family Caregivers Month

Dec 11-13, 2002: Chicago; **Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services;** IL Dept. on Aging and IL Dept. of Human Services; Dawn Shellhammer, 217-785-3387.

Senior Center Week Theme Contest.... And the Winner is...

The theme chosen for National Senior Week, to be held May 13-17, is "Blossoming into the Future for Generations to Come."

The winning entries, which were combined, were submitted by **Mary Winner** from Barry Meals Plus and **Kathleen Albert** from the Effingham County Committee on Aging. They were chosen by the Association of Illinois Senior Centers.

Senior Center Theme Kits are available through the Association of Illinois Senior Centers for \$25 each. The kit includes program ideas, flyer options and the logo on disk. To order, call Annette Aldrees at 815-723-9713. ✻

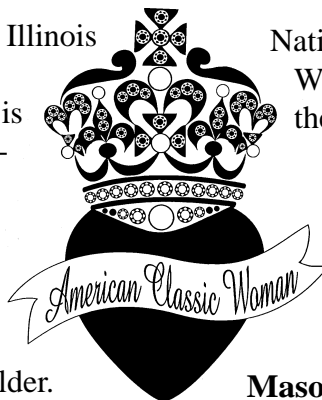
Audrey Jones crowned 13th Annual Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman

The 13th Annual Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman Pageant winner is Audrey Jones, a 76-year-old mother of five from Elmhurst.

The pageant, held March 14-17 in Oakbrook Terrace, is for women age 60 and older. Judges consider interview, stage presence, talent and life philosophies. The winner travels the state promoting wellness and fitness, and encouraging other adults to become involved in worthwhile activities.

Pageant officials were impressed by Jones' comedy routine and outlook on life. She believes strongly in exercise, maintaining good nutrition and staying active. "When a person feels good, it's like a domino effect," she said. "Family benefits, and the community benefits...Spread the joy you feel."

The retired keypunch operator will represent Illinois in the



National American Classic Woman Pageant held in the fall in Dubuque, Iowa.

In addition to Jones, Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman Pageant participants were **Gail Beard** of Perry, **Earnestine**

Mason Bonner of Chicago, **Miriam Calzaretto** of Oak Lawn, **Arlene Capron** of Elmwood Park, **Joyce M. Fredericks** of Wood Dale, **Bea Golub** of Streamwood, **Dr. Juana Carmen V. Gonzalez** of Chicago, **Audria Mae Huntington** of Chicago, **Pat Johnson** of Lake Forest and **Mary Ann Mackin** of Belleville.

The pageant was sponsored by Governor George Ryan, the Illinois Department on Aging, the Illinois Department of Human Services, Mather LifeWays, Community Care Systems, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Sheraton Four Points Hotel. ✻

Moore inducted as Laureate in Academy of Illinois Lawyers

Daniel Moore, a member of the Illinois Council on Aging, was honored in March by being inducted into the "Academy of Illinois Lawyers" by the Bar Association of Illinois. The Academy recognizes lawyers who personify the greatness of the profession by establishing and maintaining the highest principles of the profession as demonstrated by their pervasive record of service to the law and the public.

Moore was one of eleven named as a Laureate to the Academy. He recently retired and is counsel to Moore, Susler, McNutt, Wrigley and Root, L.L.C. in Decatur, of which he had been a partner since 1958.

His contributions in the area of elder law have been on national, state and local levels. A current member, he served as chair of the Elder Law Section Council for the Illinois State Bar Association and received the association's 1996 Tradition of Excellence Award. He was president of the Decatur Bar Association, which honored him in 2001 for his outstanding service to his profession and his community.

As cancer survivors, Moore and his wife have made cancer prevention and treatment their personal cause. He also has a long history of civic involvement in Decatur. ✿



The Older Americans Month 2002 poster can be downloaded for print or Web purposes, as well as sent as an electronic postcard. See the Administration on Aging's Web site at www.aoa.gov/may2002/default.htm. ✿

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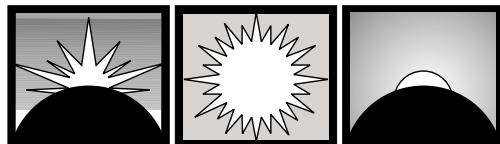
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